

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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CONFIDENTIAL MONROVIA 5401

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, LI
SUBJECT: GOL RADIO WARNS AGAINST DISSIDENT GROUPS

1. AN ELBC BROADCAST JULY 24 ASSOCIATED TWO OPPOSITIONIST GROUPS, THE MOVEMENT FOR JUSTICE IN AFRICA (MOJA) AND THE PROGRESSIVE ALLIANCE OF LIBERIA (PAL), WITH DISSIDENCE, DISUNITY AND ILLEGAL STRIKES. ACCORDING TO THE BROADCAST, "THE PEOPLE OF LOFA CITY HAVE APPEALED TO SUPERINTENDANT THOMAS BRIMA TO APPOINT A SPECIAL COMMISSION TO HELP PUT DOWN ANY DISSIDENT GROUP THAT MIGHT TRY TO DISTURB THE PEACE AND TRANQUILLITY OF THE COUNTY AND THE STABILITY OF THE STATE. THEY FURTHER DENOUNCED AND DISASSOCIATED THEMSELVES FROM ANY GROUP OR MOVEMENT THAT MIGHT TRY TO BRING ABOUT DISUNITY IN THE SMOOTH OPERATION OF GOVERNMENT WHICH IS BRINGING MASSIVE DEVELOPMENT TO THE NATION.... ACCORDING TO MICAT CORRESPONDENT BERNARD S. TENNI, THE MEETING... FURTHER CONDEMNED THE ACTS OF CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE INFILTRATING IN THE SCHOOLS TO ACCOMPLISH THEIR AIMS BY ORGANIZING MOVEMENTS TO SPOIL THE GOOD NAME OF THE COUNTY. SUCH MOVEMENTS, THE CITIZENS NOTED, INCLUDED

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THE MOVEMENT FOR JUSTICE IN AFRICA AND THE PROGRESSIVE ALLIANCE.MEANWHILE TWO TEACHERS, FLOMO KOLO AND TALO KOWAH OF THE VOINJAMA MULTILATERAL HIGH SCHOOL AND KOLAHUN PUBLIC SCHOOL, RESPECTIVELY HAD BEEN ARRESTED AND JAILED FOR ORGANIZING AND HOLDING ILLEGAL MOJA MEETINGS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE SCHOOLS. OFFICIAL CIRCLES ALSO DISCLOSED THAT THE TWO SCHOOLS HELD STRIKES RECENTLY

IN THESE TWO SCHOOLS WHICH WERE ENGINEERED BY THESE TWO TEACHERS."

2. COMMENT: DURING A FIELD TRIP TO LOFA COUNTY IN JUNE, AN EMBASSY POLITICAL OFFICER ENCOUNTERED STRONG RESENTMENT AMONG TEACHERS AND VILLAGE AND DISTRICT OFFICIALS OVER WHAT THEY FELT TO BE A FAILURE BY GOVERNMENT TO MAINTAIN SCHOOL PREMISES AND TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE EQUIPMENT AND SUFFICIENT TEXT BOOKS. THE IMPLICATION WAS THAT FUNDS FOR THESE PURPOSES WERE BEING DIRECTED TO THE PERSONAL BENEFIT OF OFFICIALS AT HIGHER LEVELS. MOJA SYMPATHIZERS ARE QUICK TO EXPLOIT SUCH LEGITIMATE GRIEVANCES TO ENHANCE THE REPUTATION OF MOJA AS A DEFENDER OF THE INTERESTS OF THE POOR. MOJA TENDS TO CONCENTRATE ITS ACTIVITIES ON DEVELOPMENTAL WORK, THROUGH ITS SATELLITE ORGANIZATION SUSUKUU, WITH THE INTENT OF DEVELOPING A MASS BASE. ITS LEADER, DR. TOGBA NAH TIPOTEH, IS POPULAR AMONG STUDENTS AND IS FAVORABLY KNOWN AMONG POORER LIBERIANS FOR HIS SOCIAL WORK, BUT THE GOL IS CONCERNED OVER HIS DECIDEDLY LEFTIST VIEWS MONROVIA A-2, JANUARY 17, 1977).

3. PAL'S PRINCIPAL GOAL IS TO ESTABLISH AN OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTY (MONROVIA A-21, MAY 22, 1977). ITS PRESIDENT, GABRIEL MATTHEWS, RETURNED JULY 12 FROM HIS MOST RECENT TRIP TO THE U.S.

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4. THE GOL IS UNEASY OVER THE ACTIVITIES OF THESE TWO GROUPS. MOJA'S PRINCIPAL PROJECT, AN AGRICULTURAL SCHEME IN GRAND GEDEH COUNTY, HAS COME UNDER GOL SCRUTINY (AS WILL BE REPORTED SEPARATELY BY AIRGRAM). PAL'S INTENTION TO FOUND A POLITICAL PARTY HAS BEEN PUBLICLY WELCOMED BY PRESIDENT TOLBERT BUT SOME IN THE TRUE WHIG PARTY LEADERSHIP HAVE STATED PRIVATELY THAT MEANS WILL BY SOUGHT BY THE TWO TO IMPEDIE PAL'S ORGANIZATIONAL EFFORTS.

5. OFFICIAL PUBLIC REFERENCES TO MOJA OR PAL, SUCH AS THE JULY 24 BROADCAST, ARE RARE. THE PURPOSE OF THE BROADCAST WOULD APPEAR TO BE TO IDENTIFY BOTH MOJA AND PAL WITH DISSIDENCE, DISUNITY, TROUBLE-MAKING, INFILTRATION AND DANGER TO "THE STABILITY OF THE STATE", AND THUS TO DISCOURAGE LIBERIANS FROM COOPERATING WITH EIGHT.

CARTER

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NNN

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